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POLICY AND PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

To address the issues of (1) inadequate English language training for the elderly immigrants and refugees; (2) the lack of knowledge, training, and cultural sensitivity on the part of service providers; and (3) the desire for ethnic specific programs, the project makes the following recommendations:

- That Congress initiate a series of oversight hearings of the refugee resettlement program and lack of adequate English classes and qualified translators.

- That the U.S. Administration on Aging, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Department of Labor jointly fund model projects targeted at removing the language barrier to equal service access.

- That the Department of Labor fund special projects under Title V of the Older Americans Act to train and place older translators.

- That AoA encourage State Units and Area Agencies on Aging to provide targeted technical assistance to established minority organizations to assist them in understanding the process of working within the grants-in-aid system.

- That AoA fund the dissemination of the National Pacific/Asian Resource Center on Aging's technical assistance materials on how to better access, work with, and serve Pacific/Asian elders.

- That the Administration on Aging sponsor training seminars, two days in duration, in six geographic areas with large concentrations of Pacific/Asians. The first day would emphasize training and technical assistance to State Units and Area Agencies on Aging. The second day would provide technical assistance to community leaders.

- That AAAs serving Asian minority communities be required to hold biannual briefing sessions on the process for obtaining funds, operating services, and complying with reporting requirements; and that minority leadership be encouraged to attend board and advisory meetings.

- That AoA develop, print, and disseminate basic information books in the various Asian languages; or encourage private foundations to support and fund such efforts.

- That model ethnic meal sites be created throughout the United States which serve the dual function of instructing English classes daily. These sites could also serve as focal points.

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